

## Globalisation and Regional Challenges for IALE

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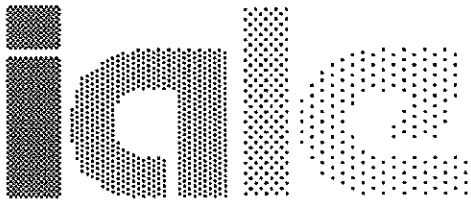
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# Bulletin

## International Association for Landscape Ecology

### INVITATION TO ESTABLISH A EUROPEAN IALE-CHAPTER

*by Jesper Brandt, Chairman of Council (brandt@ruc.dk)*

As chairman of the IALE Council I hereby invite all members of IALE to take part in a discussion of the perspectives and problems of as well as conditions for a European chapter of IALE. In the past several years, many members have expressed the need for a European Chapter of IALE. As explained in the report of this IALE-Bulletin "Globalization and regional challenges for IALE", there are many good reasons for setting up a super-regional organisation of landscape ecologists in Europe.

Here are some of the proposed functions of a European IALE:

- o Organise European meetings of IALE at the super-regional level in cooperation with other European regional chapters
- o Organise and coordinate Ph.D. courses and promote student exchange within Europe, in cooperation with other regional chapters, Universities, and research institutions.
- o Implement the Council of Europe's European landscape convention.
- o Evaluate landscape aspects of European Union policy
- o Provide contacts for the European Environmental Agency (EEA)

A European IALE does not have to be limited to a super-regional organisation of landscape ecologists within the European Union. Although the enlarged European Union will form a kernel of the region related to the common legislation relevant for land use, landscape conservation and landscape development, a European Region can preferably be defined in a much broader landscape sense. This will be up to the members to discuss, decide – and change – or simply leave undefined. For instance, several countries outside the European Union, like Norway, in fact copy a lot of landscape relevant legislation procedures and directives from the EU in their own legislation, which will make an affiliation very relevant from a landscape ecological point of view.

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### GLOBALISATION AND REGIONAL CHALLENGES FOR IALE

*by Jesper Brandt, Chairman of Council (brandt@ruc.dk)*

The regional organisation of landscape ecologists within IALE was established in the 1980ties under conditions much different from the present situation. At that time, regulation and management of landscapes was primarily a matter of national and sub-national interest, and the international scientific communication had additionally to conform to national divisions within the polarised political blocks of capitalist and socialist states. The first statutes of IALE (from 1982) clearly reflects these conditions, defining the basic organisational units as independent national chapters joining into an international association. Although later revisions of the statutes have dissolved this structure, and now permit structures and rules for the promotion of other types of regional, cross-regional and 'super-regional' organisations of landscape ecologists, the former nation-based regional structure still dominates, and the addition of other types of regional organisation are still at an emerging stage. This is a pity.

**Changing conditions for landscape regulation:** There is a rapidly growing need for regional, cross-bordering and super-regional organisations of landscape ecologists. The main reason is the galloping globalisation, meaning that more and more aspects of every community, more and more elements of every cultural or 'disturbed' natural landscape, is made a part of a man-made global exchange of energy, matter, and information, and a part of a globalised land use with an extreme variation in intensity and landscape impact. Regulation of land use to ensure protection and sustainable use of our landscapes, are extremely difficult under these circumstances. Local regulations are under pressure to allow for any land use change that can ease a growing economic competition for a position at the world market, whether it is in the form of an intensification and growing complex land use, or in the form of extensification and homogenization due to drainage of human or capital resources. In the end, both give rise to the vanishing of former diverse cultural landscapes. Cultural landscapes will disappear, and other will be estab-

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Such a flexible organisation is supported by the IALE Statutes. According to the statutes all regular members are individual members of IALE-international. Additionally they can be member of regional chapters and working groups. Chapters need not conform to political boundaries, and there are no rules preventing members to be affiliated with more than one regional chapter or to form super-regional, sub-regional or cross-regional chapters. Thus a European super-regional chapter can be formed by members of IALE in Europe according to the statutes, independently of the existing regional chapters in Europe, if accepted by a majority of the Council.

***The first upcoming opportunity for an open oral discussion concerning a European IALE will be the European IALE-meeting in Faro, Portugal 29. March – 2. April 2005.*** A discussion meeting for all present members of IALE on the matter is planned on 30. March in the late afternoon. The meeting will be chaired by the European Editor of the journal Landscape Ecology, Marc Antrop. Chairman of the IALE council Jesper Brandt will introduce the meeting with a presentation on the background of the initiative and a review of the formal conditions for a European IALE as expressed in the IALE statutes (especially section I, 1-5). ***However, all members*** - not only those taking part in the Faro Meeting – ***are invited to express their opinion on the matter and take part in the discussion, either by writing to the IALE Bulletin (Issue 2 of 2005 is expected to be published just before the meeting, with a deadline of 15. March), or by direct contact to Jesper Brandt at brandt@ruc.dk. He will include all incoming comments and suggestions into the presentation in Faro.***

You are also encouraged to indicate your potential interest in a membership in the super-regional chapter for Europe, as well as your interest in joining a preliminary group of members that can continue with the plans. The meeting in Faro will a) Establish a foundation group for the further preparation of IALE Europe, b) Decide on a commission for the preparation group, and c) Decide on a time schedule for the preparation group.

The tasks that need to be conducted by the preparation group include: a) Formulate the main principles and tasks for a European IALE, b) Formulate proposals for statutes in accordance with the IALE statutes, c) Call for membership of IALE-Europe among members of IALE-international, d) Elect a preliminary Executive Committee for IALE Europe, e) Apply to the IALE Council for an establishment of a European chapter of IALE, f) Elect an official Executive Committee for IALE Europe, and a European representative in the IALE Council in accordance with the accepted statutes

Finally, should IALE Europe be established, a nomination of a vice-president for the Executive Committee of IALE should be envisaged in spring of 2005 (See IALE Bulletin Vol. 22 no. 6, December 2004). The deadline for nomination of candidates for the two posts are 15. April 2005.

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lished, often crossing former cultural landscape borders. But new landscapes will not necessarily cross natural landscape borders that may be of even more economic importance for a globalised land use pattern than they were during former types of market conditions, developed under less sophisticated and environmentally sound types of technology.

Global institutions such as the United Nations, the Rio Process and the World Trade Organization seem only minimally able to ensure the necessary landscape ecological regulation, although considerable improvements have recently been enacted e.g. in the formulation of the biodiversity declaration and the Agenda 21, focusing on the necessity of landscape ecological planning and regulation. Also the nations established during the industrialisation period are losing their ability to ensure a sustainable landscape regulation during this globalization.

It seems plausible that regulation of landscapes in the future will be more and more dependent on initiatives at the regional and super-regional level.

***The need of new types of regional landscape ecological cooperation:*** There is an urgent need to strengthen regional landscape ecological cooperation crossing boundaries of existing nations for the support – in due time – of the necessary regulation of the new upcoming types of globalisation-induced regional landscapes.

A condition for such an organisational and applied landscape ecological perspective is certainly a higher priority to the formation and development of the existing types of regional landscape ecological associations in general, focusing on the contribution of the development of landscape ecology from scientific, planning, and management cases within the region. But also a closer and more flexible cooperation between adjacent regions, giving opportunity for supplementary associations crossing the borders of existing regions, as well as relations to supplementing super-regional associations, thus combining different scales, will be important measures, especially where these correspond to common political or historical frames for regulation at the landscape level.

There is no use denying that such priorities are affected by political winds. IALE has been established and brought forward in a period with much focus on environmental problems, and present trends of political reactions against the environmental movement have certainly influenced a number of regional chapters facing problems due to falling numbers of members and a certain stagnation in activities in general to be related to a recession in funding of research and landscape planning. But this situation is changing, simply because of the severity of the landscape problems related to the globalisation, and signs in this direction are already observable: New regional chapters and working groups have developed and former dormant sections seem again to show progression (since 2001:

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Sweden, France, Africa, Slovakia, ENULE). Despite actual recessions there is a constant need for exchange of experience concerning the organisation of landscape ecologists to promote research, education, and application under different economic, social, and political conditions.

The 1999-statutes of IALE permit such a development of flexible regional associations, including the formation of super-regional associations. Due to the basic personal membership of IALE-international, the affiliation to a regional organisation can be paralleled to the membership of a working group, and there are plenty of possibilities for the formation of regional associations adapted to special landscape-related cultural/political conditions. Members can join a regional association based on common interest in the management of a concrete landscape or a region crossing existing borders, and provided that the Council accept the region, they can elect a representative for the Council. This is parallel to the procedure for working groups, where members, interested in a certain aspect of landscape ecology, can join a working group that, if accepted by the Council, can choose their representative to the Council.

It has also been a dedicated policy of IALE for several years to promote the organisation of super-regional meetings as regional milestones between the World Congresses, and the development of super-regional associations could support this policy. Such organisations do not have to be hierarchical in their nature, with national regions as basic structures joining into a super-regional association. It could in fact be organised the other way around, starting at the super-regional level. This is obviously the strategy of the new established African section of IALE, which in no way prevents the later establishment of local, nation-based (or cross-border landscape based) regions within Africa, quite the opposite (IALE Bulletin, Vol. 21, no. 6, December 2003). Also the development in South and

Central America seems to be developing in this direction, whereas the formation of regions in Asia rather seems to be growing from the national level. This latter situation has also been the case in Europe up to now, but a strong need of co-ordination and initiatives at a European level makes it an obvious option to establish a European chapter as a supplementary organisation to the national chapters (see the separate message on the formation of a European section of IALE).

***Is a new orientation of the regional activities of IALE realistic?*** Obviously the development of landscape ecology as an important tool related to sustainable development of our landscapes in prolongation of the Rio Process has been challenged by the present trends of globalisation and neoliberal initiatives in production and trade, and a certain reaction against planning and regulation in general seems to have impact on the level of activities especially for an applied landscape ecology within the regional chapters of IALE, resulting in a withdrawal to pure academic activities.

At the same time it is clear that the regional consciousness among the members of IALE is still related to the somewhat old-fashioned national frame that constituted the conditions of the foundation of IALE. However, if IALE shall fulfil not just academic goals, but also its ambitions to attribute to the planning and management of the landscapes of the world, it is time for a new orientation of our way of working at the regional level. Certainly the national state will stay as an important frame for the regulation of many areas of landscape ecological relevance. But we must put much more emphasis on the regional organisation around existing landscapes as well as emerging cultural landscapes representing man-made regional clusters of economic, social and cultural activities. Many emerging cross-bordering regions of our globalised world are facing a tremendous need of coordinated landscape planning and management, since different historical

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IALE on the Internet: IALE International: [www.landscape-ecology.org](http://www.landscape-ecology.org)

situations have created very different types of planning, management, and 'landscape and landscaping habits' in the two parts of the emerging region. Indeed such cross-bordering organisations might produce organisational conflicts with the related national chapters. But basically we must accept that such a conflict is also expressing the dynamic nature of the man-made landscape with different spatial relations at different scales. Tensions in such cases have to be dealt with by the Council in the procedure for approval of new regional chapters and their statutes.

In environmental and planning regulation, much of the upcoming integration and regionalisation is furthered by political initiatives at the super-national level, e.g. within the European Union, to a growing extent outside the influence of the national policies. Therefore both the cross-bordering and nation-based regional chapters would be strengthened by an additional organisation of landscape ecologists at the super-regional level.

However, also within the national borders, the focus on specific landscapes might be supported in the best way by forming a regional group of interested landscape ecologists. We should consider it a practical question whether such a section should be affiliated a national section or the IALE Council directly: Thus such 'local' regions working with specific landscapes considered threatened from a global point of view could have general interest even if situated within national borders.

The basic principle of this type of organisation is that the members of IALE normally will be affiliated with several different chapters: in addition to the basic membership of IALE International, an active member would also affiliate to one or more national chapters, a local, regional or cross bordering chapter related to a given living room or landscape of interest, with support by an affiliation to a super-regional chapter devoted to landscape and regulation problems at that level. Confusing? Perhaps, but it would offer a practical acknowledgement of the very nature of the objects we are dealing with, namely our landscapes.

## BOOKS AND SPECIAL ISSUES

### Landscape research in Europe

*Editor:* M. Antrop

*Journal:* *Belgeo*, (2004) 2/3

Current trends and research issues from over 10 European countries, including e.g. Belgium, Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Greece, Germany and many others

*More information and a full list of contributions:* [http://www.geodok.uni-erlangen.de/cgi-bin/geodok/\\_index.pl?z=Belgeo](http://www.geodok.uni-erlangen.de/cgi-bin/geodok/_index.pl?z=Belgeo)

### Modern Approaches in Vegetation Monitoring

*Editors:* E. Feldmeyer-Christe, S. Ghosh, O. Wildi, N.E. Zimmermann, J. Podani

*Publisher:* Akademiai Kiado, Budapest.

This book includes contributions to a symposium of the State of the Art in Vegetation Monitoring Approaches organized by the Swiss Federal Research Institute at Birmensdorf, Switzerland, on March 24-26, 2003. The articles cover a wide range of topics, from scale problems and other theoretical issues to the most practical questions of data quality. Several contributions rely on remotely sensed data. Sampling design and statistical analysis are of primary concern in many articles. Most articles concentrate upon the observation of biological variables, some are motivated by nature conservation efforts. The book may be useful to plant ecologists, vegetation scientists and practitioners in the fields of remote sensing and nature conservation. The book is richly illustrated by black and white and colour photographs.

*Price:* 70 € (The publisher grants 20% reduction of this price exclusively for IALE members)

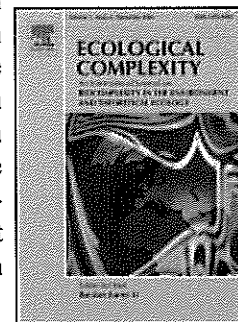
*On-line purchase:* [www.akkrt.hu](http://www.akkrt.hu) (when ordering, please indicate IALE membership)

### UPCOMING IN JUNE 2005: Special issue of a IALE symposium held at Darwin, Australia (2003): Simulating the spatial and temporal dynamics of landscapes using generic and complex models

*Editors:* J. Bolliger, H. Lischke

*Journal:* *Ecological Complexity*

This special issue identifies spatially dynamic modelling concepts and methods to represent and quantify landscape patterns in space and time. The models range from complex process to generic models. Whereas complex process models mirror systems by quantifying details on the individual biotic and/or abiotic processes, generic models tend to be structurally parsimonious, usually not accounting for specific system details. Thematically, this special issue contributes to a variety of key topics in landscape ecology, including consideration of anthropogenic impacts on landscapes, climate change, urban development, or the governing role of connectivity or self-organization in shaping ecological systems. With contributions of Bolliger J., Lischke H., Green D. G., Sadedin S., Kindlmann P., Aviron S., Burel F., Parrott L., Syphard, A., Clarke K., Franklin J.



*More information:* <http://www.environmental-expert.com/magazine/elsevier/ecocom/>